

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 THESSA 00578 191706Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 CIEP-02 DRC-01

SS-15 NSC-10 /121 W

----- 006848

R 191525Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1639

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USDAO WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 578

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, GR

SUBJECT: DISSATISFACTION WITH AGRICULTURAL PRICES

1. STRONGLY-WORDED ATTACK ON GOVT AGRICULTURAL POLICY
BY CHIEF EDITOR ELIAS KYROU IN "ELLINIKOS VORRAS"
OF SEPT 19 REFLECTS GROWING UNHAPPINESS IN NORTHERN GREECE
OVER AGRICULTURAL PRICE CEILINGS. KYROU CHARGES THAT
LOW PRICES, PARTICULARLY FOR WHEAT, HAVE RESULTED IN
MIGRATION OF FARMERS FROM LAND AND CLAIMS THAT IN
RECENT YEARS, SEVENTY PERCENT OF GREEK EMIGRANTS HAVE
COME FROM FARMING AREAS OF THRACE, MACEDONIA AND EPIRUS.

2. KYROU PARTICULARLY BITTER ABOUT GOVT DECISION OF
SEPT 17 TO RAISE PRICES OF BREAD AND FLOUR WHILE, AT
LEAST TEMPORARILY, HOLDING DOWN PRICES FOR WHEAT,
BARLEY AND CORN. CAUSTIC TITLE OF EDITORIAL, "PREFER FOREIGN
WHEAT*", REFERS TO INTERNATIONAL WHEAT PRICES OF SIX
DRS. PER KILO WHILE LOCAL PRICE LESS THAN HALF. KYROU
MAINTAINS GREECE COULD ACTUALLY EXPORT FOUR TO FIVE
HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS OF HARD WHEAT ANNUALLY IF DOMESTIC
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 THESSA 00578 191706Z

PRICES WERE PERMITTED TO FLOAT TO DEMAND, THEREBY

STIMULATING SURPLUS FOR EXPORT. WITH CURRENT PRICE
CEILINGS, GREECE MAY HAVE TO "SUBSIDIZE" BULGARIAN AND
RUMANIAN FARMERS, KYROU WARNS, BY IMPORTING WHEAT AT 5.5
DRS PER KILO.

3. SEPARATE ARTICLE IN SAME PAPER COMMENTS THAT NOBODY
SATISFIED BY PERCEIVED INEQUITIES OF SEPT 17 PRICE
REVISIONS AND FARMERS, BAKERS, AND MERCHANTS ARE "FACED
WITH CATASTROPHE."

4. COMMENT: CONGEN CONTACTS CONFIRM KYROU'S HARSH VIEW AND
GENERAL UNPOPULARITY HERE OF AGRICULTURAL PRICE CEILINGS.
PRESIDENT OF THESSALONIKI MANUFACTURERS' ASSN. ANTONIADES
(HIMSELF A GENTLEMAN FARMER) COMMENTED SEPT 19 THAT
DISAFFECTION BY APPROX. ONE-THIRD LOCAL FARMERS INVOLVED
IN WHEAT PRODUCTION IS LIKELY TO BE MAJOR POLITICAL
PROBLEM HERE IF PRICES NOT REALIGNED SOON. HE CONSIDERS
DISPARITY BETWEEN PRICES OF FINISHED FOOD PRODUCTS AND
BASIC CROPS TO BE TOTALLY ILLOGICAL AND, AT BEST, A
CLUMSY ATTEMPT TO SET UP SITUATION IN WHICH NEW MARKEZINIS
GOVT COULD ANNOUNCE ALLEVIATING MEASURES POPULAR WITH
FARMERS.
BRENNAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, AGRICULTURAL PRICES, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THESSA00578
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730923/aaaaaqpo.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISSATISFACTION WITH AGRICULTURAL PRICES
TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005